



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

September 23, 1974

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics
(415) 497-5052

Dr. Charles E. Rosenberg
Department of History
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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

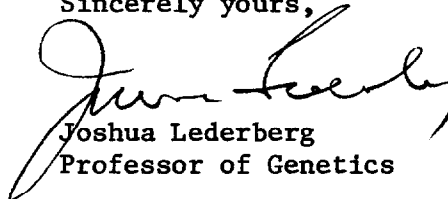
Dear Dr. Rosenberg,

Thank you for your letter of August 19th and especially for your reference to the book on Harry Russell. As I may again be recalling to you, I spent 12 years in the College of Agriculture, not long after Russell's retirement and it was interesting to read about the antecedents of my own environment. You may recognize that from that historical setting it must have been a matter of some difficulty for my own sponsors in the Department of Genetics to promote an appointment at as basic a level as my own work represented in 1947. I suspect that the traditional interest in bacteriology, which was perpetuated by E.B. Fred's presidency did no harm. And, of course, with federal NIH and Rockefeller Foundation's support for more basic science the general attitudes about relevance to agriculture did become much more liberal even during the early years of my tenure there.

I am looking forward to seeing the other reprint material that you mentioned in your note of August 19th. I can very much sympathize with your problems of keeping your files straight during a move of an office, and I know that in a like situation I would appreciate getting back a copy of the letter, so I am enclosing yours.

Thank you also for the suggestion about writing to Professor Allen. I had just noticed his name in another context as well and I will hasten to do so.

Sincerely yours,


Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr
Enclosure